

Message from the Director

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is on the threshold of a new and remarkable era in science. With our support, talented researchers are employing revolutionary technologies to capitalize on the wealth of genetic information gained from the Human Genome Project. They are also contributing to and exploiting the ever-expanding body of knowledge in cell biology and other fields. Building on this progress, we now have unprecedented opportunities to combat and conquer the many critical health problems within our broad and challenging research mission. Finding safe and effective treatments and developing strategies to both cure and prevent disease are the ultimate endpoints toward which we strive.



A few examples of the many research advances by NIDDK-funded scientists are provided in this compendium, along with highlights of the technologies that made these achievements possible. Most of these research findings were published in fiscal year 2000; however, we have also included a few “Stories of Discovery,” which trace research advances over a much longer period of time. Also featured are six personal stories of patients whose lives have been adversely affected by disease, and for whom research brings hope.

We view this publication as an opportunity to convey a sense of the impressive accomplishments of NIDDK-supported researchers, as well as the enormous promise their research efforts hold for the future. The examples given here are representative of the much larger and more diverse research portfolio funded by the NIDDK. In publishing this booklet, we have simply “stopped the clock” and taken a quick “snapshot” of just some of our research endeavors. Because each day brings new studies and new findings, we hope that this booklet will quickly become obsolete. Science is moving forward with amazing speed, and that is how it should be.

As we exploit research advances and opportunities, we will remain mindful that our success is truly measured by the translation of science into improvements in human health and well being. We are dedicated to that goal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Allen Spiegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allen" and last name "Spiegel" clearly distinguishable.

Allen M. Spiegel, M.D.

Director

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institutes of Health